

**Topic:** Festivals in Hong Kong

**Language items:**

- Use 'therefore' to talk about results
- Use 'since' to give reasons
- Use 'unless' to introduce the only situation where something can happen

Read the myth about Nian and answer the questions.

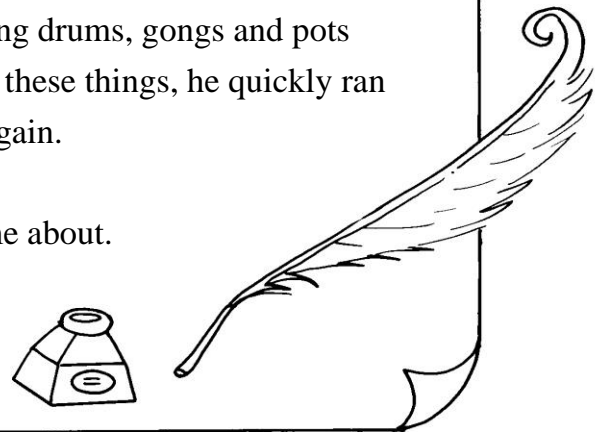
A long long time ago, a fierce, ugly monster called Nian lived in the mountains. At the end of every year, since there was no food in the mountains, he came down to the village to find food.

As soon as Nian appeared, everyone was frightened. Some people stayed in their houses and tried to hide, while some others ran away. However, unless they were very fast, Nian caught them and ate them. Some tried to fight him using bows and arrows but it was useless. He was much too strong for them. Every year he ate lots of villagers. When he was full, he returned to the mountains.

This went on for many years and the people, therefore, had a meeting to discuss what to do before the coming new year. 'Unless we come up with a good plan, Nian will come back again and kill all of us. What can we do?' they asked. Many people gave different suggestions. At last, a wise old man said he noticed that Nian was afraid of things like loud noises, bright lights and the colour red. The villagers went home after the meeting and started to prepare for Nian's next visit.

One cold dark night, Nian crept into the village. When he came to a house, he saw red paper decorations on the doors. He disliked the red paper so he went to another house. He visited house after house and found the same thing. Suddenly the villagers rushed out from their houses and started making lots of noise using drums, gongs and pots while others lit firecrackers. Since Nian was scared by all these things, he quickly ran back to the mountains. He was never seen in the village again.

This is how some of the Chinese New Year traditions came about.



**Questions:**

Circle the correct answers.

1. Where did Nian live?
  - A. in the village
  - B. in the mountains
  - C. in the houses
  - D. in the forest
  
2. Why did Nian go down to the village?
  - A. He wanted to scare the villagers.
  - B. He wanted to make friends with the villagers.
  - C. He was hungry.
  - D. He was naughty.
  
3. Which of the following is NOT true?
  - A. The villagers could hurt Nian.
  - B. Some villagers wanted to hide from Nian.
  - C. Nian could run very fast.
  - D. Nian ate a lot of villagers every year.
  
4. What did the villagers do to make Nian go away? (You can choose more than one answer.)
  - A. They hit the drums and gongs.
  - B. They cooked some nice food for Nian.
  - C. They gave some animals to Nian.
  - D. They put red decorations on their doors.
  
5. Which Chinese New Year tradition comes from the myth about Nian?
  - A. cleaning the home
  - B. hanging red paper decorations
  - C. wearing new clothes
  - D. eating sweets